

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 10, 2004. Claims 1-16, 36-51, and 54-86 are presented for examination. Claims 17, 18, 52, 53, 87, and 88 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Claims 1, 36, 54, and 71, the independent claims, have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, and Claims 16, 45, 51, 63, 69, 75, 80, and 86 have been amended as to matters of form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 5-11, 36, 40-46, 54, 58-64, 71, and 75-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the publication “Sam’s Teach Yourself Windows 95 in 10 Minutes (*Windows 95*); Claims 2, 37, 55, and 72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Windows 95* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6, 449,6563 (*Carney et al.*); Claims 4, 39, 57, and 74 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Windows 95* in view of publication “Windows NT Server 4 Unleashed, Second Edition” (*Windows NT*); Claims 3, 38, 56, and 73 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Windows 95* in view of publication “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Windows 95 (*Guide*); and Claims 12-16, 47-51, 65-70, and 82-86 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Windows 95* in view of publication “Image of Device Manager in Windows 95 (*Device Manager*).

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 36, 54, and 71 in terms that more clearly define what they regard as their invention. Applicants submit that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims

dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus connected to a network, wherein the apparatus includes a communicating unit, a domain information acquiring unit, first, second, and third acquiring units, and a display unit that communicates information with each of a number of terminal devices on the network. The domain information acquiring unit acquires domain information of the network. The first acquiring unit performs an acquisition function to acquire first information, related to the terminal device connected to the network, through the communicating unit. The second acquiring unit performs an acquisition function to acquire second information, related to a peripheral device which is locally connected (and not connected through the network) to the terminal device to which the first information pertains, while the third acquiring unit also performs an acquisition function to acquire a use status of the peripheral device to which the second information pertains. The display unit displays information of the terminal device, whose first information is acquired by the first acquiring unit, connected to the network and information of the peripheral device, whose second information is acquired by the second acquiring unit, locally connected to the terminal device without a user's operation. The first acquiring unit acquires the first information related to the terminal device connected to the network in the domain corresponding to the domain information acquired by the domain information acquiring unit, and the display unit displays the information of the terminal device connected to the network in the domain corresponding to the domain information acquired by the domain information acquiring unit, the information of the peripheral device locally connected to

the terminal device and the use status thereof, based upon the first information acquired by the first acquiring unit, the second information acquired by the second acquiring unit, and the use status acquired by the third acquiring unit.

Among other important features of Claim 1 is that the display unit displays information of the terminal device, whose first information is acquired by the first acquiring unit, connected to the network and information of the peripheral device, whose second information is acquired by the second acquiring unit, locally connected to the terminal device without a user's operation. That is, the display depicted in Figure 3 of the specification may be obtained without a user's operation. Support for this feature may be found at least at page 18, lines 10-21, and Figure 9.¹

The Examiner at page 4, lines 9-22, of the Office Action appears to suggest that the Explorer of Windows 95 causes to display the server on the network, the client PC, and the peripheral devices connected to the client PC, and cites pages 69, 132 and 133, along with Figures 9.1 and 18.2 of *Windows 95* as support thereof. Applicant understands the cited reference as discussing that it is necessary for a user to select a desired workplace, select a PC or server, and select a desired folder or peripheral device by "double-clicking" a mouse (Figure 18.2 of *Windows 95*) for the Explorer to cause to display information about the peripheral devices connected to the PC and server.

In contrast, the present invention, as defined by Claim 1, displays information of the terminal device, whose first information is acquired by the first acquiring unit, connected to the network and information of the peripheral device, whose

¹/It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

second information is acquired by the second acquiring unit, locally connected to the terminal device without a user's operation. Thus, even when the user does not know beforehand which terminal device the peripheral device is connected to, the user can determine this by viewing the displayed information. In contradistinction, in the system defined by *Windows 95*, when a user does not know beforehand which PC or server the peripheral device is connected to, the user is unable to display the screen on which the information of the peripheral device is contained. Thus, the user cannot immediately know the information concerning the peripheral device.

Applicants have found nothing in *Windows 95* that would teach or suggest the display unit displays information of the terminal device whose first information is acquired and connected to the network and information of the peripheral device whose second information is acquired and locally connected to the terminal device without a user's operation, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by *Windows 95*.

Independent Claims 36 and 71 are method and storage medium claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over *Windows 95* for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Additionally, independent Claim 54 includes a feature similar to that discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 54 is believed to be patentable over *Windows 95* for reasons substantially similar to those discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

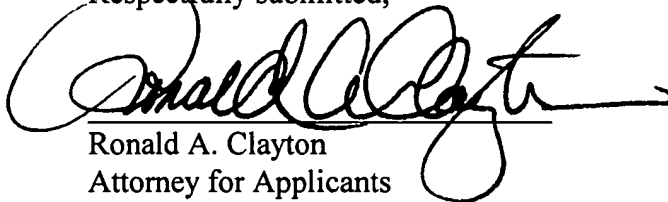
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention. However, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald A. Clayton", is written over a horizontal line.

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